

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02367 161453Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SY-05 EB-08 COME-00 /082 W
-----113223 170757Z /14

R 152130Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8051
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2367

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PINS SHUM ES
SUBJ: TWO MORE PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN KIDNAPPED EARLY MORNING MAY 14

1. TWO INFLUENTIAL AND WELL-TO-DO BUSINESSMEN WERE KIDNAPPED
IN CROWDED PARKING LOT AT SHERATON HOTEL (LARGEST IN
SAN SALVADOR) ONE A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 14. THE TWO MEN, ERNESTO
SOL MEZA AND LUIS MENDEZ NOVOA, WERE DEPARTING HOTEL
FOLLOWING DINNER/SHOW PERFORMANCE. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY
THEIR WIVES WHO WERE SIMPLY PUSHED ASIDE AND NOT INJURED
DURING KIDNAPPING.

2. EENESTO SOL MEZA IS MEMBER OF ONE OF TOP FAMILIES OF
EL SALVADOR, IS MAJOR SHAREHOLDER OF TROPICAL BEVERAGE COMPANY
(WHICH PRODUCES COCA COLA), AND IS RELATED TO ROBERTO QUINONEZ
MEZA (PRESENT SALVADOR AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.).
LUIS MENDEZ NOVOA ALSO PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN WITH
FAMILY CONNECTIONS IN SO-CALLED FOURTEEN FAMILIES.
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3. REPORTS CONCERNING KIDNAPPING, AS USUAL, VARY
WIDELY WITH BEST PRESENT INFORMATION INDICATING THAT
BETWEEN SIX TO TWELVE INDIVIDUALS ARMED WITH MACHINE
GUNS AND PISTOLS FORCED TWO BUSINESSMEN INTO WAITING
CARS AND FLED SCENE. FAMILY HAS STATED THEY HAVE THUS
FAR RECEIVED NO REQUEST FOR RANSOM OR COMMUNICATION OF

ANY KIND FROM KIDNAPPERS. NO SUBVERSIVE OR TERRORIST
GROUPING HAS AS YET CLAIMED CREDIT FOR ACTION, AND POLICE
INFORMATION SIMPLY STATES THAT THEY ARE INVESTIGATING.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST DUAL KIDNAPPING IN SAN SALVADOR
AND ALSO FIRST TO BE CARRIED OUT AT NIGHT. GIVEN BUSINESS
AND FAMILY CONNECTION OF THESE TWO MEN, EMBASSY ANTICIPATES
STRONG REACTION ON PART OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE (ANEP) DEMANDING MORE FORCEFUL ACTION FROM
GOES.
DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ES, (SOL MEZA, ERNEST), (MENDEZ NOVOA, LUIS)
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